

# **Missouri Priority Projects**

## **TEA-21 Reauthorization**

### **Interstate 70 – Major Upgrade of the I-70 Corridor**

Interstate 70 is the most important transportation corridor in Missouri, connecting the state's two largest cities and carrying more rural daily traffic than any other rural route. Today, many of the portions of I-70 are strained beyond capacity. The safety and economic prosperity of Missourians depends, in part, on an I-70 that grows along with the state and nation.

The number and severity of traffic related crashes along I-70 between Kansas City and St. Louis has grown and will continue to grow, causing many safety concerns. Congestion often makes portions of I-70 a frustrating driving experience. I-70 is especially important to freight carriers, which degrades the road at an increasing rate. Overall, I-70 is a very old road that will need major maintenance and rehabilitation over the next 30 years.

The current study that is underway to evaluate the options to improve the I-70 corridor indicates that it would cost between \$2.5 billion and \$3 billion for the entire corridor. MoDOT wants to proceed on improvements within the corridor in the Independence area of metropolitan Kansas City, in the Wentzville area of metropolitan St. Louis and the Columbia area. A preliminary estimate for these first sections of the corridor upgrade is \$1.0 billion. Although the initial request of \$1 billion will not address the needs of the entire corridor it will allow the state to begin improvements to this critical state and national Interstate corridor.

### **Mississippi River crossing in St. Louis – Missouri / Illinois**

Currently the Poplar Street Bridge, located in downtown St. Louis, squeezes three interstates over one river crossing, causing congestion and many safety concerns. In 1960, there were 22 lanes of river crossings in downtown St. Louis; today there are only 12. Although the re-opening of the Eads and McKinley will increase this number to 18, there will still be four less than in 1960, while the traffic volume is projected to increase. The peak hour congestion is expected to double in the next 20 years.

Statistics indicate that the traffic crash rate on the Poplar Street Bridge is three times higher than the Missouri and Illinois statewide averages, creating a safety concern as well. In addition to aiding the congestion and the high crash rate, the economic impact of the Mississippi River Bridge would be very favorable. Statistics indicate that infrastructure improvements will substantially increase the number of jobs in the downtown area over the next 20 years, is expected generate \$2.6 billion in economic benefits to the region, and should increase downtown's annual tourism expenditures from \$2.4 to 3.2 billion by 2025.

The evaluation substantiated the need with an estimated cost of \$724 million for the Missouri portion. This is a joint project for Missouri and Illinois with an unfunded cost of 1.3 billion for the remaining portion of the project.

### **I-64 – Completion of a portion of I-64 (St. Charles County)**

The funds for this project will allow Missouri to complete the remaining sections of I-64 in St. Charles County. These are the only remaining sections of I-64 in St. Charles County that are not completed to Interstate standards. Estimated cost of the project is \$175 million.

### **Route 21 – Completion of additional 4-lane section (Jefferson County)**

Route 21 has had some sections improved to a four-lane facility. This improvement will allow Missouri to upgrade the remaining 4.9 mile section in Jefferson Co. to a 4-lane facility at an estimated cost of \$70 million.

### **I-470, I-435 and US 71 – Completion of Interstate realignment and interchange improvements (Kansas City Area)**

The growth in the Kansas City area had placed a high traffic demand on the roadway system at the convergence of I-470, I-435 and US Route 71, and all National Highway system routes. The improvements include the realignment of the Interstate and rebuilding all of the interchanges at the convergence point. The length of this segment is 3.4 miles with an estimated cost of \$52 million.

### **I-29 / I-35 Reconstruction of Kansas City Downtown Loop (Kansas City Area)**

The interstate system that serves the downtown area of Kansas City continues to have high demands and requires reconstruction. This project is the first phase, in the northeast quadrant of the downtown area, that will provide better access to downtown and serve the second phase that includes a new Missouri River bridge. The estimated cost of this first phase is \$60 million.

### **Route 269 – Upgrade urban corridor to four-lanes (Kansas City Area)**

This project will upgrade an urban corridor from a two-lane facility to a new four-lane facility. The corridor is a high priority to the entire Kansas City metropolitan area as it connects I-35 to a new bridge over the Missouri river. The project length is approximately 1.6 miles with an estimated cost of \$7 million.

### **Atchison Bridge Replacement on US Route 59 Missouri / Kansas**

Route 59 is a National Highway System route connecting Missouri and Kansas. There is a deficient bridge over the Missouri River. This project will replace the deficient bridge and improve adjacent roadway on US 59. The estimated cost is \$45 million for the Missouri portion. This is a joint project with Missouri and Kansas with a total cost of \$85 million.

## **US Route 36 – Upgrade to four-lane facility Macon to Hannibal**

US Route 36 is a corridor on the NHS that serves northern Missouri and is an extension of I-72. This corridor is a major corridor that connects Kansas City to Chicago. This project will complete another four-lane section of this NHS corridor. This portion is 52 miles in length with an estimated cost of \$171 million.

## **MO 5 – Upgrade a portion to four-lane facility (Camden County)**

Route 5 is a corridor on the NHS that serves the Lake of the Ozarks area, a popular tourist area. This project will upgrade a portion of this NHS route (two and four lanes) in order to provide support to the economic growth in the region. The segment is 15.4 miles in length with an estimated cost of \$113 million.

## **I-44 / US 65 Interchange improvements (Greene County)**

The I-44/US 65 interchange serves the Springfield metropolitan area and connects the Branson tourist area to the Interstate system. The increased growth and popularity of the Branson/northern Arkansas tourist area has made this interchange obsolete. This improvement will upgrade the interchange to serve future economic growth in the area. The estimated cost is \$116 million.

## **US 60 – Completion of a section of 4-lane Willow Springs to Van Buren**

US 60 is a NHS route that is also within the Congressionally designated I – 66 Transamerica High Priority Corridor. This project will complete another segment of this High Priority corridor, a length of 67 miles and estimated cost of \$208 million.

## **US 61 – Upgrade a section of the Avenue of the Saints to four lane**

US 61 is a portion of the Avenue of the Saints, which is a Congressionally designated High Priority Corridor on the NHS. This project will complete an upgrade of another section of this corridor. The project is 14.4 miles in length with an estimated cost of \$70 million.

## **MO 412 – Completion of High Priority Corridor**

MO 412 is part of the congressionally designated East-West Corridor through Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma. This project will complete another section of this Congressional Corridor. The project length is 15 miles with an estimated cost of \$14.4 million.

## **US 71 – Upgrade High Priority Corridor between Missouri and Arkansas**

US 71 is a Congressional designated High Corridor. This project will upgrade a portion from the Arkansas line into Missouri as a four-lane facility. The project is 3.7 miles long with an estimated cost of \$54 million.

### **MO 19 – Missouri River Crossing at Hermann**

MO Route 19 crosses the Missouri River into Hermann, a popular tourist area. The existing structure is old and deficient. This project will replace the existing bridge and adjacent roadways. The estimated cost is \$29 million.

### **MO 13 – Upgrade a segment to four lanes Clinton to Springfield**

MO 13 is part of a major corridor on the NHS that connects Missouri's second largest metropolitan area (Kansas City) and third largest metropolitan area (Springfield). Both metropolitan areas are designated Transportation Management areas by the US DOT. This project will complete another four-lane section of this roadway in the Collins area. The length of the project is 4.3 miles with an estimated cost of \$28 million.

### **US 65 – Complete four lanes in the Branson area Missouri and Arkansas.**

US 65 is a portion of a NHS route that connects the Branson tourist area to I-44 and Arkansas. The entire corridor has been upgraded to a 4-lane facility except for this remaining section. This improvement will complete the remaining section of 4-lane between Missouri and Arkansas. The project will connect to 4 lanes on each end of the improvement. The length of the project is 11.0 miles with an estimated cost of \$99 million.